

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04510 131538Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-05 IO-14 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01
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R 131351Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1600
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4510

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, KU
SUBJ: KUWAITI PRESS REACTION TO COMING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

1. MOST PAPERS AUGUST 13 PRINTED FON MIN SHAIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD'S
REMARKS TO PRESS PREVIOUS DAY, FOLLOWING TALK WITH AMB. MAESTRONE,
TO EFFECT THAT KUWAIT SEES LITTLE HOPE FOR CAMP DAVID MEETING,
AND CONSIDERS THAT MIDDLE EAST CRISIS IS NOW BEST HANDLED UNDER
UNITED NATIONS AUSPICES.

2. AL RAI AL AM AUG. 13 PICKED UP FON MIN'S THEME, POINTING
OUT THAT SADAT CANNOT BRING ABOUT EITHER A PALESTINIAN
SOLUTION NOR A SYRIAN ONE, AND THAT THEREFORE NOTHING NEW CAN
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COME FROM CAMP DAVID. THE NEWSPAPER, WHICH HAS BEEN MOST
CONSISTENTLY CRITICAL OF USG POLICY IN THE AREA RECENTLY,
COMMENTS TO EFFECT THAT AMERICA IS CAPITALIZING ON WHAT IT
ALLEGEDLY SEES AS THE EXHAUSTION OF ARAB ANGER AT SADAT, AND THE
DISTRACTION OF SYRIA BY THE LEBANESE CRISIS, TO ACHIEVE A
SEPARATE PEACE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THE SAME PAPER'S
EDITORIAL AUGUST 12 HAD DEPLORED SADAT'S CLAIM THAT AMERICA'S

PARTICIPATION AS A PARTNER IN NEGOTIATIONS IS A TRIUMPH, SINCE, IN ITS VIEW, AMERICAN "PARTNERSHIP" CAN ONLY MEAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE WITH ISRAEL AGAINST EGYPT.

3. AL-QABAS AUG. 13 SEES CAMP DAVID MEETING AS A MARRIAGE OF OPPOSITES, AND PREDICTS THAT IT, LIKE CHRISTINA ONASSIS' MARRIAGE, WILL NOT WORK. SUCCESS FOR EITHER PARTY AT CAMP DAVID WILL MEAN INJURY TO THE OTHER. "BY ARAB CRITERIA, THE SUMMIT SUCCESS MEANS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL"...AND THE CREATION BY PALESTINIANS OF THEIR STATE. "ANY OTHER SUCCESS MEANS A FAILURE." AUG. 12 AL-QABAS HAD ARGUED THAT ALL THE OTHER ARABS SHOULD GET TOGETHER BEFORE CAMP DAVID AND LAY DOWN THE ARABS' CONDITIONS FOR PEACE, AS A MEANS OF "STRENGTHENING EGYPT" AND PRECLUDING NEW CONCESSIONS WHICH SADAT MIGHT BE INCLINED TO MAKE. AL-ANBA AUG. 13 MAKES THE SAME POINT, AND ADDS THAT THE ARABS SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT FAILURE AT CAMP DAVID WILL LEAD TO USE OF THE "ARAB OIL WEAPON."

4. AL-SIYASSA, WHICH ALONE AMONG KUWAITI PAPERS HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF SADAT'S INITIATIVE OVER THE MONTHS, CHOOSES TO EDITORIALIZE ON OTHER SUBJECTS.

5. COMMENT: ALL PAPERS REFLECT AN UNDERLYING CONVICTION THAT ISRAEL'S POSITION ON TERRITORY AND THE PALESTINIANS IS TOO "HARDLINE" TO PERMIT ACCOMMODATION BY THE ARABS, AND THAT SADAT IS IN ANY CASE NOT AUTHORIZED TO BARGAIN FOR THE ARABS. ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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PAPERS ADDRESSING THE SUBJECT VARY, ESSENTIALLY, ONLY IN THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY ADHERE TO NOTION THAT BEHIND THE SUMMIT LIES A DEVIOUS AMERICAN PLOT. WHILE SOME PAPERS CONCEDE AMERICAN SINCERITY IN SEEKING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION, AND THE NON-INFLUENTIAL KUWAIT TIMES AUG. 10 EVEN SEES THE POSSIBILITY OF PRES. CARTER'S BACKING SADAT TO THE POINT OF OPENLY QUARRELING WITH BEGIN, NO KUWAITI NEWSPAPER FORESEES RESULTS FROM CAMP DAVID AS HAPPY ONES FOR THE ARABS. MAESTRONE

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